



# NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Gaming Control Board Agents Investigate Alleged Illegal Gambling Activity on the Premises of One of Its Licensee's**

**CARLSBAD – March 19, 2005** – Undercover agents of the Gaming Control Board Enforcement Division, responding to an anonymous tip, are investigating an alleged illegal poker game at the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge #1558 located at 1558 Elks Lane in Carlsbad.

With the assistance of the Carlsbad Police Department, undercover agents entered the premises unannounced and found 20 individuals actively participating in an alleged illegal poker game. Agents seized sets of playing cards and cash.

The following Carlsbad residents were cited by undercover agents on charges of illegal gambling: Herbert Mackey, Clarence Wells, Phillip Porter, Harry Young, Arthur Johnson, Henry Mall, John Pack, Jay Jenkins, Darwin Pendergrass, Sammy Landreth, James Miller, Larry Sells, Hugh Davidson, Gerald Wickstrom, Ronald Mathews, Roy Cantley, Edwin Clark, Jimmy Stokum, James Landreth, and Everett Wheeler.

New Mexico Statutes 1978, Chapter 30, Criminal Offenses, section 30-19-2 Gambling stipulates "whoever commits gambling is guilty of a petty misdemeanor" and section 30-19-3 Commercial Gambling stipulates "whoever commits commercial gambling is guilty of a fourth degree felony." Investigation is continuing into matters related to this alleged illegal gambling activity and further charges maybe forthcoming. Interim Executive Director Greg Saunders said that this type of card game for entertainment crosses the line into becoming an illegal gambling activity when there is an exchange of money.

Anyone with information pertaining to alleged illegal gambling activities such as poker games, card games, or sports betting pools where there is an exchange of money and who wishes to communicate anonymously can contact the New Mexico Gaming Control Board Enforcement Division at 841-9700.

The New Mexico Gaming Control Board was established by statute in 1997 and funded during the 1998 legislative session. It began operations in June of 1998. The Board is responsible for regulating legalized gambling at licensed racetracks and qualified veteran's and fraternal organizations of New Mexico. The Board is also responsible for overseeing New Mexico's tribal gaming compacts through the appointment of the state gaming representative. The Board has 60 employees, which include licensing and background specialists, compliance auditors, attorneys, and certified peace officers.

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